



**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
STILLWATER UNIT
PROPOSED GOGUEN LAND EXCHANGE**

December 20, 2007

Project Description

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Stillwater Unit, is currently evaluating a proposal submitted by Michael Goguen of Whitefish, Montana. The proposal is for a land exchange between parcels owned by Mr. Goguen and State of Montana trust lands administered by DNRC. The proposal would exchange ownership of one commercial lease property in downtown Whitefish and two parcels (Lupfer Parcel and Highway 93 Parcel) totaling 602 acres of private land owned by Mr. Goguen for 440 acres of trust land administered by DNRC. The map included as **Figure 1** shows the Goguen and State trust parcels that would be affected by the proposed land exchange.

The Goguen commercial lease property is located at 140 Lupfer Avenue. The 602 acres of Goguen open land proposed for exchange are located in Sections 2, 11, and 12 in Township 31 North, Range 23 West and Section 5 of Township 30 North, Range 22 West, respectively. The DNRC parcel proposed for exchange is located in Sections 28 and 29 of Township 31 North, Range 22 West within Stillwater State Forest (**Figure 1**).

Mr. Goguen proposes the following three components:

1. Exchange of one commercial property in downtown Whitefish and 602 acres of private land owned by Mr. Goguen for 440 acres of State trust land;
2. Donation of a significant financial contribution to the City of Whitefish for trail project funding and full funding for trail easement, dedication, design and construction on the Lupfer Parcel and a segment of trail through the 440 acres of State trust land as part of the *Trail Runs Through it project*;
3. Placement of a permanent conservation easement on the 440 acres that Mr. Goguen would acquire from DNRC as part of the land exchange.

The State of Montana would acquire the commercial lease property and 602 acres of open land in exchange for 440 acres of open land.

This public scoping period is related specifically to the Goguen Land Exchange and its components. If this project is approved, DNRC and Mr. Goguen would submit the land exchange proposal to the State Land Board for their consideration.

What We Need From You

DNRC would like to receive public comment regarding concerns or issues about the proposed land exchange as part of their evaluation of the proposal. In accordance with Montana's Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), public concerns about the project and potential environmental impacts will be considered and analyzed before a decision is made regarding project implementation. DNRC is planning to evaluate the project using an Environmental Assessment (EA). However, the project design and corresponding level of analysis will be influenced by public and specialist input.

Please let us know how we can best keep you or your organization actively involved and informed throughout the project analysis. The comment period for this project will remain open until January 19, 2008. All individuals or organizations that submit comments or request to remain on the mailing list by January 19, 2008 will continue to receive correspondence concerning this proposal. Individuals not commenting on this proposal will receive no further correspondence.

To obtain more information about the land exchange, contact Brian Manning at Stillwater State Forest. To submit written comments on the proposal, please contact Stephanie Lauer, Senior Environmental Scientist for PBS&J.

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Thank you for your interest in State trust land management.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Sandman
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Figure 1.
Goguen Property
Project Map

